

### **REMARKS**

Claims 20-26, 32-39 and 56-80 are now pending in the present application. Claims 20 and 32 have been amended, claims 1-19, 27-31 and 40-55 have been canceled by the present Amendment or by a previous Amendment and claims 56-80 have been added. Claims 20, 32, 62 and 69 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

#### **Interview with Examiner**

An interview was conducted with the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application on October 20, 2004. Applicants greatly appreciate the courtesy shown by the Examiner during the interview.

In the interview with the Examiner, the Banno et al. reference was discussed with regard to independent claims 20 and 32 of the present invention. Applicants representative propose amendments to the claims in order to address the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

As the Examiner will note, the claims have been amended by the present amendment in the manner discussed during the interview.

#### **Information Disclosure Statement**

Information Disclosure Statements (IDSs) were submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on September 20, 2001 and November 8, 2001. Applicants acknowledge receipt of the initialed PTO-1449 forms from these IDSs. However, an IDS has also been submitted to the U.S.

patent and Trademark Office on September 20, 2004. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial the PTO-1449 form attached thereto and forward a copy with the next Office Communication in order to make the reference cited thereon of record in the present application.

Please note; however, that in the IDS dated September 20, 2004, included a statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that mistakenly stated that the reference cited in the IDS was “first” cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application not more than three months prior to the filing of the IDS. Therefore, the fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) was not included with the IDS dated September 20, 2004. However, the reference cited in the IDS was, in fact, known to Applicants’ more than three months prior to the filing of the IDS, but Applicants did not believe the reference to be particularly relevant to the present application.

In order to correct the above deficiency, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) has been filed concurrently herewith under separate cover. It is respectfully submitted that all of the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and 1.98 have been complied with and therefore Applicants request that the Examiner consider the IDS filed on September 20, 2004.

#### **Status of the Drawings**

In the Examiner’s Office Actions dated November 5, 2003 and July 22, 2004, no indication as to the status of the drawings has been provided. The present application was filed with seven (7) sheets of formal drawings as indicated on the transmittal letter dated July 11,

2003. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner indicate whether the drawings are acceptable so that Applicants can make any necessary drawing corrections in a timely manner.

### **Restriction Requirement**

Claims 27-30 and 40-55 stand withdrawn from further consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. While not conceding to the appropriateness of the Examiner's requirement, as the Examiner will note, these claims have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicants reserve the right to file a Divisional Application directed to these claims at a later date if it is so desired.

### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103**

Claims 20-24 and 32-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Banno et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,511,545. Claims 25, 26, 38 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Banno et al. in view of the admitted prior art. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to an apparatus for providing a substrate with viscous medium. Independent claim 20 recites a combination of elements including "application means for applying the viscous medium onto the substrate at a plurality of locations" and "inspection means for inspecting the results of said application at more than one of the plurality of locations after completion of the application at the plurality of locations."

Independent claim 32 of the present invention recites a combination of elements including “an applicator, said applicator applying the viscous medium onto the substrate at a plurality of locations” and “an inspection device, said inspection device inspecting the results of said application at more than one of the plurality of locations after completion of the application at the plurality of locations.”

With the above structure according to the present invention, it is possible to inspect more than one location on a substrate after completion of an application of viscous medium at a plurality of locations. Applicants respectfully submit that the Banno et al. reference relied on by the Examiner fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention.

In particular, referring to the Banno et al. reference, this reference discloses an ejection nozzle 1501 of an ink-jet ejecting device and an optical system 1502 for detecting information associated with the droplet. Referring to FIG. 23 of Banno et al., the optical system 1501 is mounted adjacent to the ejection nozzle 1501. The device of Banno et al. also includes an ejection condition controlling circuit 1507, an ejection condition correcting circuit 1506, a comparator 1505 and an optical information detecting circuit 1504.

As can be clearly understood from column 27, line 66 through column 28, line 26 of Banno et al., the device of Banno et al. optically monitors the ejection process at a particular location until the size of a particular droplet reaches an optimum value. In view of this, it should be understood that in Banno et al., the droplets are monitored simultaneously with the ejection operation. However, in the present invention, the inspection occurs “after completion of the application at the

plurality of locations.” In addition, the inspection means inspects the results of the application after completion of the application “at more than one of the plurality of locations.” Since the Banno et al. reference performs a simultaneous ejecting and inspection operation, Applicants respectfully submit that the Banno et al. reference fails to anticipate independent claims 20 and 32 of the present invention.

With regard to FIGS. 32B-33D of Banno et al., a plurality of droplets are applied between electrodes 2 and 3 in order to connect the electrodes together. Presumably, the device of Banno et al. would also inspect each one of the droplets in the same manner described above. In view of this, Banno et al. only discloses inspecting an application simultaneously with the ejection of the material and not at the completion of the application as in the presently claimed invention. Furthermore, to the extent the last droplet is considered to be “after completion of the application” as recited in independent claims 20 and 32 of the present invention, Applicants submit that the inspection would only occur for the last droplet and therefore the inspection would not be “at more than one of the plurality of locations” after the completion of the application as recited in independent claims 20 and 32 of the present invention. Accordingly, the Banno et al. reference fails to anticipate the independent claims of the present invention for this additional reason.

With regard to dependent claims 21-26 and 33-39, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable due to their respective dependence on independent claims 20 and 32, as well as due to the additional recitations in these claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 20-26 and 32-39 clearly define the present invention over the references relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiners' rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

#### **Additional Claims**

Additional claims 56-80 have also been added for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants respectfully submit that additional dependent claims 56-61 are allowable, due to their respective dependence on independent claims 27-32, as well as due to the additional recitations in these claims. With regard to additional claims 62-80, it is believed that these claims also define the present invention over the references relied on by the Examiner.

Favorable consideration and allowance of additional claims 56-80 are respectfully requested.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Since the remaining references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no further comments are deemed necessary with respect thereto.

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

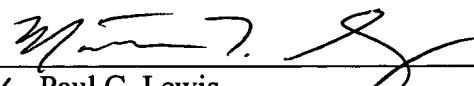
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Paul C. Lewis, Registration No. 43,368 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #47,074  
Paul C. Lewis  
Reg. No. 43,368

  
PCL/cl

P. O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000